

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the subject patent application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (previously presented): Device for driving animals in an oblong corridor section (21) by means of a driving gate (2), which can be moved from one end of the corridor section to the other, comprising a first transport arrangement (3, 5, 10, 12) to move the driving gate (2) in the corridor section in a longitudinal direction of the section from a first position (2b) at one end of the section to a second position (2c) at the other end, and to move the gate (2) in the opposite direction after it has been brought outside the corridor section, from a position (2d), which is opposite the second position (2c) in the corridor section, to a position (2a) which is opposite the first position (2b) in the corridor section, which first arrangement comprises a displaceable mounting part (6), which can be moved in the longitudinal direction of the section over a distance corresponding to the distance between the first position (2b) and the second position (2c) of the gate, and a second transport arrangement (13, 14, 18, 19) to pull the gate sideways out from the corridor section in the plane of the gate from the second position (2c) in the corridor section, and to push the gate sideways into the corridor section in the plane of the gate from the position (2a), which is opposite the first position (2b) in the corridor section, which second arrangement comprises a second displaceable mounting part (16), to which the gate (2) is fastened and which can be moved transversely to the longitudinal direction of the section over a distance corresponding to at least the width of the driving gate (2).

2 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the second transport arrangement is suspended in the mounting part (6) of the first transport arrangement.

3 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the first transport arrangement has at least two guiding surfaces (3), which are parallel to each other and extend in the longitudinal direction of the section, along which guiding surfaces the first mounting part (6) can be displaced.

4 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the first arrangement comprises a motor (8) to move the displaceable part (6) in the longitudinal direction of the section.

5 (previously presented): Device according to claim 4, wherein the first transport arrangement comprises an oblong element (12), which extends in the longitudinal direction of the section, and wherein the motor operates a coupling device (10), the coupling surfaces of which engage with surfaces on the oblong element (12).

6 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the second transport arrangement comprises a motor to move the displaceable part (16) with the gate (2) transversely to the longitudinal direction of the section.

7 (previously presented): Device according to claim 6, wherein the second transport arrangement comprises an oblong element (19), which extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the section and has surfaces to engage with coupling surfaces of a coupling device (18) on the second mounting part (16), and wherein the driving shaft of the motor can rotate the oblong element (19).

8 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the second arrangement has at least two guiding surfaces (14), which are parallel to each other and extend transversely to the longitudinal direction of the section, along which guiding surfaces the second mounting part (16) with gate can be displaced.

9 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, further comprising a control unit which coordinates the movement of the first and second transport arrangements.

10 (previously presented): Device according to claim 9, wherein the control unit is designed to co-ordinate the operation of motors in the first and second transport arrangement.

11 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the driving gate (2) is mainly plane.

12 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, including a side wall (22) on each long side of the corridor section (21).

13 (previously presented): Device according to claim 12, wherein one side wall (22) has a first gap (26) through which the driving gate (2) can be pulled sideways out from the corridor section and a second gap (25) through which the gate (2) can be pushed sideways into the corridor section, and wherein the second displaceable mounting part (16) can be moved over a distance correspondence to the width of the gate (2) and the thickness of the wall, together.

14 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, further comprising a gate (24) which is placed at the second position (2c) of the driving gate (2) on the down-stream side of the position (2c) in relation to the driving direction.

15 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, further comprising a gate (23) at the first position (2b) of the driving gate (2) on the up-stream side of the position (2b), which gate can be opened partially to a position which allows animals to walk one at a time through the passage formed by the opening process, and wherein the gate (23) can also be opened completely to form an opening of the same width as the corridor section, which opening allows several animals to be driven forwards next to each other.

16 (previously presented): Device according to claim 1, wherein the device includes two gates (23, 24), which are placed at the first and second positions (2b, 2c) of the driving gate (2), on either side of the section which is operated by the gate (2) when it is moved from the first to the second position.

17 (canceled).

18 (withdrawn): Method for driving animals in an oblong corridor section (12) by means of a driving gate (2) which can be moved from one end of the corridor section to the other, including:

removing a blockage, if present in an upstream end of the corridor section,

driving animals into the corridor section (21) through the upstream end,

pushing the driving gate (2) into the corridor section when a desired number of animals have passed into the section, from a position (2a) of the gate outside the section to a first position (2b) inside the section in its upstream end,

removing a blockage, if present in the downstream end of the corridor section,

moving the driving gate (20) to a second position (2c) in the corridor section in the downstream end, driving the animals out from the corridor section,

re-establishing any blockage in the downstream end of the corridor section in front of the driving gate (2),

moving the driving gate (2) sideways to a position (2d) outside the corridor section, and

returning the driving gate (2) outside the corridor section to the position (2a) opposite the first position (2b) in the corridor section.

19 (withdrawn): Method according to claim 18, wherein the corridor system comprises an entrance gate (23) and an exit gate (26) that allow blockage of the corridor section in the upstream end and downstream end, respectively and further comprising

a) opening the entrance gate (23) in the upstream end of the corridor section (21) animals past the gate and into the corridor section (21),

b) closing the entrance gate (23) when a desired number of animals have passed,

c) pushing the driving gate (2) into the corridor section from a position (2a) outside the section to a first position (2b) inside the section, which is in front of the entrance gate (23)

d) opening the exit gate (24) in the downstream end of the corridor section (21), and moving the driving gate (2) to a second position (2c) in the corridor section behind the exit gate (24), thereby driving the animals out from the corridor section,

e) closing the exit gate (24) in front of the driving gate (2),

f) moving the driving gate (2) sideways to a position (2d) outside the corridor section,
and

g) returning the driving gate (2) outside the corridor section to the position (2a)
opposite the first position (2b) in the corridor section.

20 (withdrawn): Device according to claim 15, further comprising a control unit
which coordinates the movement of the first and second transport arrangements and controls
the opening of the gate (23).

21 (withdrawn): Device according to claim 16, further comprising a control unit
which coordinates the movement of the first and second transport arrangements and controls
the opening of the gates (23, 24).